

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING BOARD**  
THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

**OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN**

June 7, 2010

Mr. Gene W. Counihan, Chairman  
Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission  
14501 Sweitzer Lane  
Laurel, Maryland 20707

SUBJECT: Preservation of Trees on Oxford Street in Kensington Maryland

Dear ~~Chairman Counihan~~ <sup>Gene</sup>:

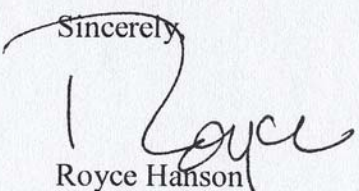
At its regular meeting on May 27, 2010, the Montgomery County Planning Board reviewed a Mandatory Referral from the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) to modernize Garrett Park Elementary School in Kensington. The Planning Board voted unanimously to approve the Mandatory Referral and to request that if possible, Montgomery County Public Schools preserve the mature 34 inch diameter willow oaks on Oxford Street.

Due to their size and nature, those trees are identified as high priority for protection under state law, and it required a variance from the Planning Board for their removal. Furthermore, they contribute to the quality of life that the Garret Park community holds so dear.

The Planning Board understands that an adjustment to the location of future Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) facilities will be needed to preserve those trees. We would like to enlist WSSC's participation in developing a permitting solution that will assist in preserving the trees while, at the same time, allow the school's construction to remain on its current construction schedule.

The Planning Board appreciates the opportunity to work with WSSC to provide for the health and welfare of the residents of Montgomery County.

Sincerely,

  
Royce Hanson  
Chairman

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✓ Enclosure: Staff Report